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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

September 9, 2002

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND FACILITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS
OVERSIGHT PANEL ON TERRORISM
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
FIRST VICE CHAIR
CHAIR, HEALTH TASK FORCE

The Honorable Nelson W. Wolff
County Judge
Bexar County
100 Dolorosa
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3002

Dear Judge Wolff:

Thank you for sharing with me the plan which Bexar County has developed with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TRNCC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I appreciate knowing of your efforts to meet state and federal guidelines, and I applaud your commitment to protecting the health of our community.

I am supportive of the goal of the Early Action Compact to enable our community to achieve and sustain ozone standard compliance without suffering the loss of significant federal highway funding. Compliance with state and federal standards is important not only because of the potential loss of millions in federal highway funding but also to protect those neighbors suffering from asthma and other respiratory illnesses, especially the young and the elderly.

Since being elected to Congress, I have been supportive of efforts to assist the greater Bexar County area to remain in compliance with the Clean Air Act. I have supported bills and amendments to grandfather transportation projects from penalties during a community's Clean Air Act ozone standard conformity lapse, to provide a four-year moratorium on the new eight-hour ozone standard, and to prohibit the EPA from designating ozone non-attainment areas. In addition, I have written the EPA several times and arranged meetings for City of San Antonio officials with EPA officials regarding a transition status for our area.

The final decision about whether to enter into the Compact is one which

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must be made by the communities who will be responsible for meeting the milestones. If the County approves this plan, I stand ready to assist you in working with federal agencies including the EPA and the Department of Transportation, and I will continue to support legislation and efforts to help the San Antonio area achieve its environmental goals.

Clean air is vital to our health and safety, and I am pleased to know that you are working together with other concerned agencies to improve the quality of our air and the quality of our lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ciro D. Rodriguez" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress